

AUDUBON OF FLORIDA *** THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Executive Office
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November 1, 2006

Carol Wehle
Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Rd
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

John Renfrow
Director
Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department
3071 SW 38th Ave
Miami, Florida 33146

Carlos Espinosa
Director
Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management
33 SW 2nd Ave
Miami FL 33130

Re: South Miami-Dade Wastewater Treatment Plant

Ms. Wehle, Mr. Renfrow, and Mr. Espinosa:

The undersigned organizations applaud the efforts of the South Florida Water Management District and the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department to develop solutions for Miami-Dade County's water supply demands that will provide environmental protection and the possible restoration of Biscayne Bay. The creation of alternative water supply projects and conservation efforts in Miami-Dade County will help eliminate any increased reliance on the Everglades system. The actions of your agencies will help ensure that the current water available to the Everglades will not be allocated to meet future water demands. Additionally, we look forward to the full protection of all water needed for the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem and Biscayne and Florida Bays.

It is our understanding that currently 132 million gallons per day (MGD) leave the South Miami-Dade Wastewater Treatment Plant and is either released to tide or deep well injected. It is also our understanding that Miami-Dade County has a consent agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requiring reuse of some of this discharge. We appreciate your efforts in identifying a possible project or projects to reuse the discharge from the South Miami-Dade Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Of these projects being considered, one proposal is to link a reuse facility to the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. We are very interested in learning more about this proposal. We would greatly appreciate if we could be involved in discussions between your agencies and respectfully request that a process be started to open the dialogue to the interested environmental organizations.

The BBCW Project Management Plan states, “due to the water quality issues associated with discharging reclaimed water into BNP, an Outstanding Florida Water, such as potential failures of the treatment system and the limited ability to control contaminant inputs to the sanitary sewer system serving the treatment facility, other potential sources of water to provide required freshwater flows to southern and central Biscayne Bay should be investigated before pursuing the reuse facility as a source (page 16, Section 2.3.2.1).” In addition to discussion of reuse water projects, we are interested in the additional efforts undertaken by the CERP Project Team for meeting this objective.

We look forward to the discussion and to the restoration of Biscayne Bay.

Sincerely,

Jamie Furgang
Audubon of Florida

Betty Grizzle
The Everglades Foundation

Sara Fain
National Parks Conservation Association

Cynthia Guerra
Tropical Audubon Society

/signatures waived to expedite delivery/